

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 12 and ending at line 22 of page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 4 shows a method for distributing a VDS 105 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In action 402, an end-user selects a PDS 122 for download from a partner site 103. In action 404, the selected PDS 122 is downloaded from partner site 103 to the end-user's client computer 101. As part of the partner's bundling agreement with the vendor, an FSS 124 is also downloaded from partner site 103 to client computer 101 (see action 404). In action 406, the vendor's VDS 105 is offered to the end-user. If the end-user agrees to have the VDS 105 (see "YES" path from decision 408), FSS 124 is installed on client computer 101, as noted in action 410. As part of its installation process, FSS 124 is decompressed (if compressed) and then automatically invoked to download the VDS 105 either as a single file or in chunks depending on implementation. In action 412, the selected PDS 122 is installed on client computer 101. Optionally, FSS 124 is deleted off client computer 101 if the end-user declines to have the VDS 105 (e.g., "NO" path of decision 408 followed); in any event, FSS 124 is too small to have an impact on the storage capacity of client computer 101.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 14 and ending at line 13 of page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 7B schematically illustrates a time domain multiplexing technique employed by download manager (DM) 603 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the download manager 603 requests chunks (701A, 701B, 701C,..., 701n) of the file that is being downloaded. Each chunk is downloaded at what the download manager 603 believes to be the connection's full transfer rate. The duration of the download of the chunk is

measured. The duration of the download of the chunk 701A may be shown as T701A. Assuming that the bandwidth available for the download is 25% of the total bandwidth, this available percentage may be shown as pct. Once the 701A chunk is entirely received, ~~DM603~~ download manager 603 will then sleep for a time equal to $(T701A/pct)*(1-pct)$. For example, if T701A is 500 mS, meaning that it has taken 500 mS to download the first chunk of the file and the pct is 25%, meaning that the 25% of the total available bandwidth is going to be used for download of the chunk, once 701A is entirely received, the download manager 603 will then sleep for $(T701A/pct)*(1-pct)=(500/0.25)*(1-0.25)=1500$ mS. Therefore, downloading takes 25% of the time slice, or 500 mS, and sleeping takes the other 75%, or 1500 mS.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 15 and ending at line 3 of page 16 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The actual download and sleep durations are~~ The actual download and sleep durations are constantly changing based on each successive chunk's download duration, but download manager 603 is always consuming only 25% of the bandwidth on the average (100% of the bandwidth for 25% of the time, 0% of the bandwidth for 75% of the time). Should another application begin using bandwidth (e.g. internet telephony), T701x (the time for download manager to download any generic chunk of the file 701x) will grow from 500 ms to a much larger number and/or the chunk size will reduce, and the sleep time will change proportionally, but download manager 603 will still consume, on the average, about 25% of available bandwidth. When the other application ceases consuming bandwidth, the T701x download durations will shrink and the respective sleep durations will shrink accordingly. An analogy to the metering lights on freeway onramps may be used to clarify this embodiment. On these metering lights, the interval between green lights is inversely proportional to freeway congestion.